

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 44 28 wherein the wool is raw wool obtained after a raw wool scour, dyed or undyed wool slubbing, or a dyed or undyed wool yarn, knit, or cloth.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 47 28 wherein the organic polyisocyanate is a unmodified aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic, or aromatic isocyanate having an average NCO functionality of 1.8 to 4.2.

19. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 47 28 wherein the polyalkylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol contains on average 6 to 60 alkylene oxide units per molecule.

20. (Previously Presented) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 19 wherein the polyalkylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol is a polyethylene oxide/propylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol.

21. (Previously Presented) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 19 wherein the polyethylene oxide/propylene oxide alcohol, amine, and/or thiol contains not less than 60 mol% of ethylene oxide units, based on the sum total of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units.

22. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 47 28 wherein the NCO-reactive compound is (i) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having tertiary amino groups, (ii) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having carboxyl or sulphonic acid groups,

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- (iii) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having carboxylate or sulphonate groups for which the counterions are metal cations of the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal group or ammonium ions, or
- (iv) a hydroxyl- or amino-functional compound having ammonium groups obtained from the tertiary amino groups of the compounds (i) by alkylation or protonation.

23. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 28 wherein the softener softeners is a fatty acid amide, ester quat, quaternary fatty acid amide, betaine, fatty acid sarcoside, aminosilicone, polyethylene wax emulsion or silicone emulsion.

24. (Currently Amended) A nonfelting wool according to Claim 17 28 wherein the antislip agent is an anionic or cationic silica sol, blocked isocyanate resin, hydrophilicized isocyanate resin, polyacrylate, or polyvinyl alcohol.

25. (Previously Presented) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool comprising exposing wool to

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) optionally, an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates,
- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.

26. (Previously Presented) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool according to Claim 25 wherein exposure to the aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates is effected either batchwise in an exhaust process or continuously by dipping, roll application, padding, application of a mist or spray, or backwasher application.

27. (Previously Presented) A process for the antifelt finishing of wool according to Claim 25 wherein exposure to the aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates and the softener is effected are carried out together and are followed by exposure to the antislip agent.

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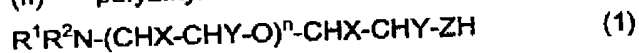
28. (Previously Presented) A nonfelting wool obtained by a process comprising exposing wool to:

- (a) a plasma in a pretreatment, followed by
- (b) an aqueous dispersion of self-dispersing isocyanates, wherein the self-dispersing isocyanate has an isocyanate content of 1 to 25% by weight, calculated as NCO (having a molecular weight of 42 g/mol), and is obtained by reaction of:

organic polyisocyanates having an average NCO functionality of 1.8 to 4.2

with

- (II) polyalkylene oxide alcohols, amines, and/or thiols of the formula (1)



wherein

n is 3 to 70,

X and Y are hydrogen or methyl, with the proviso that when one of X and Y is methyl the other of X and Y must be hydrogen,

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently straight-chain or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl radicals or straight-chain or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -acyl radicals, with the proviso that if  $R^1$  is a straight-chain or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -acyl radical,  $R^2$  can also be hydrogen, or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may combine to form a  $-(CH_2)_m$ -alkylene radical where m is 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein one or two  $CH_2$  groups can be replaced by O and/or NH and/or one or two  $CH_2$  groups can be substituted by methyl, and Z is O, S, or NH,

- (c) a softener, and
- (d) optionally, an antislip agent.